

## NSSE Results Summary for UMKC (2012)

Each year the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) asks students at hundreds of colleges and universities to reflect on the time they devote to various learning activities. The responses to the items from the most recent NSSE administration at UMKC (2012) are summarized under five categories below: *Academic Challenge*, *Active Learning*, *Student-Faculty Interaction*, *Enriching Educational Experiences*, and *Supportive Campus Environment*. Comparisons with the previous two NSSE administrations (2007 and 2009) are also provided. (Note: FY = First-Year; SR = Senior).

### Academic Challenge

#### **To what degree is studying and spending time on academic work emphasized?**

84% of FY students and 81% of SR students feel that UMKC places substantial emphasis on academics. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for both groups.

#### **Do faculty hold students to high standards?**

72% of FY students and 59% of SR students frequently work harder than they thought they could to meet faculty expectations. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for both groups.

#### **How much time do students spend on homework each week?**

43% of FY students and 45% of SR students spend more than 15 hours per week preparing for class. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for both groups.

#### **What types of thinking do assignments require?**

First-year students report substantial emphasis on the following activities:

Memorizing facts, ideas, or methods: 68% (lower than 2007 and 2009)

Analyzing basic elements of an idea or theory: 82% (higher than 2007 and 2009)

Synthesizing and organizing ideas: 73% (higher than 2007 and 2009)

Making judgments about value of information: 67% (higher than 2007 and 2009)

Applying theories or concepts: 78% (higher than 2007 and 2009)

#### **How much writing is expected?**

6% of FY students write more than 10 papers between 5 and 19 pages. These results were lower than those obtained in 2009.

18% of FY students have written a paper more than 20 pages in length. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

#### **How much reading is expected during the school year?**

38% of FY students read more than 10 assigned books and packs of course readings. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

33% of FY students read fewer than 5 assigned books and packs of course readings. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

#### **Do exams require students to do their best work?**

59% of FY students and 56% of SR students report that their exams strongly challenge them to do their best work. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for both groups.

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### Active Learning

#### **How often are topics from class discussed outside of the classroom?**

results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2009 for SR students.

#### **Do students work together on projects – inside and outside of class?**

49% of FY students and 44% of SR students frequently work with other students on projects in class. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2009 for SR students.

47% of FY students and 49% of SR students frequently work with peers on assignments outside of class. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2009 for SR students.

#### **How often do students make class presentations?**

41% of FY students and 46% of SR students report that they make frequent presentations in class. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

#### **How many students participate in community-based projects in regular courses?**

During their first year, 19% of students frequently participate in service-learning or community-based projects; by their senior year, 58% had never participated in such activities. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for both groups.

#### **How many students apply their classroom learning to real life through internships or off-campus field experiences?**

By their senior year, 39% of students have participated in some form of practicum, internship, field experience, co-op, or clinical assignment. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

#### **Do students have opportunities to tutor or teach other students?**

22% of seniors frequently assist their fellow students by tutoring or teaching them. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

### Student-Faculty Interaction

#### **Are faculty members accessible and supportive?**

44% of FY students and 55% of SR students say their faculty are available, helpful and sympathetic. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

#### **How many students work on research projects with faculty?**

By their senior year, 15% of students have done research with a faculty member. These results were the same as those obtained in 2009 but were lower than those obtained in 2007.

#### **Do students receive prompt feedback on academic performance?**

61% of FY students and 67% of SR students indicate that they frequently get prompt verbal or written feedback from faculty members. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2009 for SR students.

#### **How often do students talk with advisors or faculty members about their career plans?**

78% of seniors at least occasionally discuss career plans with faculty; 22% never talk with faculty members about career plans. These results were lower than those obtained in 2009.

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### Student-Faculty Interaction

#### **Do students and faculty members work together on committees and projects outside of course work?**

50% of FY students and 47% of SR students at least occasionally spend time with faculty members on activities other than coursework. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

### Enriching Educational Experiences

#### **What types of honors courses, learning communities, and other distinctive programs are offered?**

During their first year, 16% of students participate in a learning community. These results were higher than those obtained in 2009.

By their senior year, 15% of students have taken an independent study class. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

#### **How often do students interact with peers with different social, political, or religious views?**

60% of FY students and 54% of SR students say they frequently have serious conversations with students who are different from themselves in terms of their religious, political, or personal beliefs. These results were higher than those obtained in 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

#### **How often do students interact with peers from different racial or ethnic backgrounds?**

60% of FY students and 57% of SR students frequently have serious conversations with those of a different race. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

#### **How many students study in other countries?**

By their senior year, 7% of students have studied abroad. The results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

#### **Do students participate in activities that enhance their spirituality?**

33% of FY students and 33% of SR students frequently engage in spiritually enhancing activities such as worship, meditation, or prayer. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 for the FY students, but were lower than those obtained in 2007 for SR students.

#### **What percentage of students participate in community service?**

By the time they are seniors, 53% of students have participated in community service or volunteer work. These results were higher than those obtained in 2009.

### Supportive Campus Environment

#### **How well do students get along with other students?**

50% of FY students and 56% of SR students report that their peers are friendly, supportive, and help them feel as if they belong. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 for the FY students, but were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

#### **Are students satisfied with their overall educational experience?**

82% of FY students and 80% of SR students report a favorable image of UMKC. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 for the FY students and were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

74% of seniors would choose to attend UMKC again if they could start their college career over. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009.

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### Supportive Campus Environment

#### **How much time do students devote to co-curricular activities?**

8% of FY students and 8% of SR students spend more than 15 hours a week participating in co-curricular activities. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

47% of FY students and 57% of SR students indicated they spend no time participating in co-curricular activities. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students and were lower than those obtained in 2009 for SR students.

#### **How well do students get along with administrators and staff?**

27% of FY students and 38% of SR students find the administrative personnel and offices helpful, considerate, and flexible. These results were lower than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for the FY students, but were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.

#### **To what extent does the school help students deal with their academic and social needs?**

76% of FY students and 71% of SR students feel that this institution has a substantial commitment to their academic success. These results were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for both groups.

41% of FY students and 30% of SR students feel well-supported by the institution regarding their social needs. These results were lower than those obtained in 2009 for the FY students, but were higher than those obtained in 2007 and 2009 for SR students.